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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
/058 W

R 171950Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9170

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: LA PLATA PRISONERS ON ANDERSON "DEATH LIST";
2 DIE IN ALLEGED TRANSFER ALTERCATION

-----180454 084273 /13
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

REF: A. STATE 027041 B. BUENOS AIRES 0613 C. BUENOS AIRES 7290

1. SUMMARY: CONCERNING LIST OF 41 PERSONS NAMED IN JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN AS PRISONERS IN DANGE OF DEATH (REF. A), EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT THAT TWO WERE KILLED FEBRUARY ALLEGEDLY IN AN ALTERCATION WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM LA PLATA PRISON. SOURCES ALSO IDENTIFIED AT LEAST NINE PERSONS NAMED ON ANDERSON LIST AS INMATES IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA PRISON, THE INCLUDING TWO KILLED FEBRUARY 4.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TWO OF THE 41 PERSONS LISTED BY JACK ANDERSON AS BEING IN DANGER OF DEATH (REF. A) HAVE DIED, ALLEGEDLY IN ALTERCATIONS WITH SECURITY OFFICIALS WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM LA PLATA PRISON. THE TWO--HORACIO (JOSE) RAPPAPORT AND ANGEL GEORGIADIS (BELIEVED TO BE MISSPELLED IN LIST AS ANGEL GERCULEZ)--WERE, B LIKE DARDO CABO AND PERLIS BEFORE THEM, PRISONERS IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA PRISON. EMBASSY LEARNED THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE TWO MEN WERE SEPARATELY INFORMED BY TELEGRAM ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT THEIR SONS HAD DIES IN AN ACT OF "AUTOAGGRESSION" (UNDERSTOOD BY US AS EITHER SUCIDE OR UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT UPON

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SECURITY AUTHORITIES) WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA ON FEBRUARY 4. THE FAMILY OF ANGEL GEORGIADIS RECEIVED JUDICIAL ORDER FOR AN AUTOPSY BUT THE BODY HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BY PRISON AUTHORITIES, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCE.

3. IN MID JANUARY FATHER OF HARACIO CREA, - ANOTHER PERSON ON ANDERSON LIST WHO IS IN UNIT 9, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HIS SON AND TWO OTHER PRISONERS THERE-JULIO CESAR URIEN AND GEORGIADIS-- HAD BEEN TAKEN BY PRISON GUARDS, HOODED, BEATEN AND THREATENED WITH DEATH IF THEY CAUSED DISTURBANCES WITHIN THE PRISON WING. ON FEBRUARY 3 THE PRESS REPORTED THAT JUAN CARLOS URIEN HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS AND SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, AND HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SIERRA CHICA PRISON. URIEN HAD BEEN A NAVAL MIDSHIPMAN AND HIS FATHER WAS A JUDGE. SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT URIEN WAS ALSO DIRECTLY RELATED TO GEN. HARGUINDEGUY WHO INTERVENED TO THE URIEN TRIED AND TRANSFERRED TO SIERRA CHICA INSTEAD OF BEING ELIMINATED. NOTHING WAS LEARNED OF GEORGIADIS UNTIL THE REPORT OF HIS DEATH FEBRUARY 9.

5. THE FAMILY OF JUAN MENDEZ WHO VISITED HIM IN WING ONE OF UNIT 9 ON FEBRUARY 10 CONFIRMED THE IDENTIFY OF A NUMBER OF HIS PRISON MATES AND THE TERROR THAT REIGNS IN THE WING (SEE SEPTTEL). THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE ALSO CONFIRMED THE SITUATION IN WINGS ONE AND TWO WHICH ARE NOW KNOWN AS THE "WAITING ROOMS OF DEATH". ONE SOURCE SAID THAT WING ONE IS RESERVED FOR ALLEGED MONTONEROS AND WING TWO FOR ALLEGED ERP MILITANTS MARKED FOR ELIMINATION.

6. THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HAS APPARENTLY VISITED LA PLATA TWICE. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL FIRST VISIT, IT WAS GRANTED GREATER ACCESS TO PRISONERS IN WING ONE ON A SECOND VISIT IN EARLY FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO THE MENDEZ FAMILY. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY PRISONERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM WINGS ONE AND TWO FOLLOWING THE IRC VISIT.

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7. DOMINGO MENA WAS A TOP ERP LEADER FIRST REPORTEDLY KILLED ALONG WITH ERP LEADER MARIO SANTUCHO IN JULY. IT WAS LATER LEARNED (BUT NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES) THAT MENA HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN PRISONER AND WAS BEING HELD IN CAMPO DE MAYO (REF. C). EMBASSY HAS NO NEW INFORMATION ON HIS PRESENT

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WHEREABOUTS.

8. PER PARAGRAPH 3 IN REF. A; AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED IN THE PAST, THE FACT THAT NAMES APPEAR ON LISTS OF PERSONS REMOVED BY THE

EXECUTIVE FROM DETENTION UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS DOES NOT MEAN THE PERSON HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED FROM CUSTODY. JUAN VILLANUEVA'S NAME WAS ONE DECEMBER 23 LIST OF RELEASES AND YET SOURCES SAY THAT HE IS BEING HELD IN UNIT 9 OF LA PLATA. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF WHEREABOUTS OF TWO OTHERS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3.

9. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE ANDERSON LIST WAS DEVELOPED FROM THE LIST OF UNIT 9 INMATES WHICH IS APPARENTLY CIRCULATING ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE. THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE DIRECTLY CONFRONTED TOP GOA OFFICIALS ON THE QUESTION OF ELIMINATION OF PRISONERS BUT HAVE RECEIVED NONCOMMITTAL REPLIES. WHERE POSSIBLE, EMBASSY HAS REITERATED U.S. INTEREST IN SPECIFIC CASES--JUAN MENDEZ AND HORACIO CREA--AND IS MAKING ITS CONCERN KNOWN THROUGH MILITARY AS WELL AS EXECUTIVE BRANCH CHANNELS.
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